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October 10, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

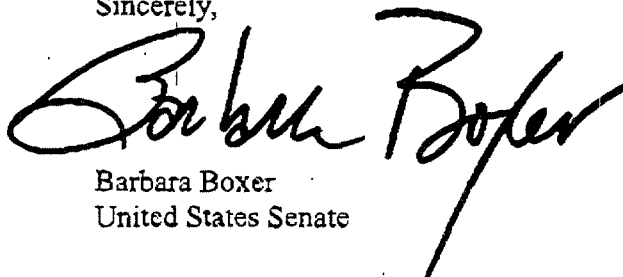
As you know, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of completing its risk assessment to establish a standard for perchlorate contamination in water supplies. I am concerned with reports that EPA is being encouraged to take economic factors into account when establishing this standard. I believe it is imperative that this standard be based only upon sound science.

Since World War II and until recently, ammunition, explosives, and fireworks have been manufactured, stored, and disposed of at various sites in the United States, resulting in groundwater contamination by perchlorate. Perchlorate has been demonstrated to pose serious health risks, including interfering with the thyroid gland's ability to produce the hormones needed for normal prenatal development, lowered IQ, and the delayed development of motor skills in infants and young children.

I am troubled that many communities in California and elsewhere are now finding that their groundwater resources are contaminated with perchlorate. This poses a serious, immediate risk to public health.

It is important that EPA continue its comprehensive review of perchlorate to determine a health-based standard, without outside interference, to ensure the health and safety of the American people.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senate

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